

September 1, 2018

Dear Governor Walker,

Thank you and Lt. Governor Mallott for your commitment to making Alaska a leader in the efforts to address the impacts and causes of climate change. In furtherance of that commitment, you established the Alaska Climate Change Strategy, appointed members of the Climate Action for Alaska Leadership Team, and charged us with recommending actions to implement that strategy. In response to that charge, the Leadership Team is pleased to submit to you our recommended Alaska Climate Change Policy and an Action Plan that provides recommended actions the state can take to implement the Policy.

The recommended Alaska Climate Change Policy and Action Plan reflect the diverse geography, age, expertise, life experience, industries, communities, and points of view of the Leadership Team members. They build on past bipartisan efforts in Alaska, ongoing efforts by the State of Alaska, and available scientific, economic, and other data. Ultimately, these recommendations are responsive to the general consensus of the Leadership Team that the State of Alaska must take bold action to address the potentially devastating threats from climate change and to take full advantage of opportunities that are presented.

The full Leadership Team met in person three times and convened a series of teleconferences to address specific issues, discuss recommendations, and review documents. We also received advice and input from two advisory bodies intended to provide expertise from the scientific community and oil and gas industry. Members of the Leadership Team convened a series of listening sessions and received extensive written and oral comments from Alaskans. The public input helped shape our recommendations and reinforce the need for bold, comprehensive, and inclusive action.

The science is clear. Alaskan communities, economies, and ecosystems are changing rapidly. Emissions from the combustion of fossil fuels are the root cause of these changes, and there is an urgent need to take action to address both the causes and effects of these changes. Alaska has both the opportunity and obligation to be a leader in the effort to mitigate and adapt to the impacts of climate change.

The recommended Policy and Action Plan are intended to create a platform from which this administration and future administrations can take urgently needed action to address the impacts and root causes of climate change. Though we have not yet prioritized the recommended actions, there are immediate steps this administration can take to continue its leadership and the momentum that has been created through the Leadership Team's effort. Specifically, we encourage you to:

- Appoint a permanent, Cabinet-level position, separate from current agency commissioners, to oversee implementation of the Alaska Climate Strategy, Climate Policy, and Action Plan, including the continued engagement of the Climate Action for Alaska Leadership Team and parallel State inter-agency team;
- Commit to developing and promoting legislation that would codify the Climate Action Policy and require steps to implement it; and

- Recognize that climate communications, outreach, and public education are essential to efforts to address climate change and commit to implementing and updating an outreach, engagement, and education plan.

Again, we thank you for your commitment to addressing the impacts and causes of climate change, and we stand ready to assist the State in taking the actions needed to ensure sustainable communities, vibrant and diverse economies, and healthy ecosystems for our and future generations.

The Climate Action for Alaska Leadership Team